

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being submitted to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-17, 19-44, and 46-54 are currently pending. Support for this Amendment is provided through the Specification as originally filed, and specifically on page 27.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7-17, 19-22, 26-32, 34-44, 46-49, and 53-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,801,713 to Yagawa et al. (hereinafter, merely "Yagawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,390,027 to Henmi et al. (hereinafter, merely "Henmi").

Claims 6, 23-25, 33, and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yagawa in view of Henmi and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,999,691 to Takagi et al. (hereinafter, merely "Takagi"). (Applicants respectfully assume that the Examiner meant to indicate "claim 33" in place of "claim 35.")

As understood by Applicants, Yagawa relates to a support method for helping the user find a desired program from a collection of recorded television programs.

As understood by Applicants, Henmi relates to television program information contained in an extracted text broadcast signal that is selected and input to a video cassette recording device. The recording program information includes recording times and program titles. The recording device includes a timer for starting the recording of the television program on a tape in accordance with the recording information, an index detector for detecting an index along the tape to identify a section in the tape where the television program is recorded, a rewind controller for rewinding the tape to its initial position, a writing arrangement for writing the recording information of the recorded program together with the index information at the initial position of the tape, and a fast forward controller for advancing the tape to the end of the recorded section identified by the index. The recording information written at the initial position of the tape can be displayed on a screen to indicate the contents of the tape.

As understood by Applicants, Takagi relates to a television receiver comprising a tuner; a data storage device for storing the video signal received by the tuner; a select circuit for selecting and outputting one of the reproduced video signals; and a control circuit for controlling the data storage device and the select circuit in response to an external input signal.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“... wherein time base for display of each virtual channel advances independently and continuously on each virtual channel for the period of time when other virtual channels are selected to give a viewer an impression that virtual channels are indistinguishable from non-virtual channels.” (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Yagawa, Henmi, nor Takagi, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 1. That is,

nothing in Yagawa, Henmi, or Takagi would teach or suggest that time base for display of each virtual channel advances independently and continuously on each virtual channel for the period of time when other virtual channels are selected to give a viewer an impression that virtual channels are indistinguishable from non-virtual channels, as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action concedes on page 3 that “Yagawa fails to teach wherein time base for display of each channel as recited in claim 1.” Instead, the Office Action relies on col. 13, lines 25-47 of Henmi for an alleged teaching of this feature. However, after a careful review of the cited portions of Henmi, Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration. The cited portions of Henmi teach a fast-forward operation which will be greatly noticeable to a viewer. Therefore, Henmi does not teach or suggest that time base for display of each virtual channel advances independently and continuously on each virtual channel for the period of time when other virtual channels are selected to give a viewer an impression that virtual channels are indistinguishable from non-virtual channels, as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has failed to provide a credible motivation for the combination of the Yagawa with Henmi. There is no motivation, either in the references themselves, or within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, to pursue the combination as proposed by the Office Action. The motivation appears gleaned from Applicants’ disclosure, which is impermissible.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claim 28 is similar, or somewhat similar, in scope, and is therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

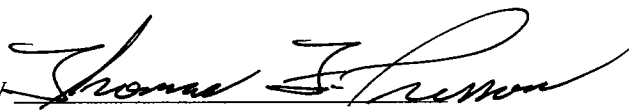
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion(s) of the reference(s) providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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